Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-007
Tuesday
12 January 1988

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-007 *12 January 1988*

CONTENTS

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Castro Welcomes Ugandan President Museveni 1
Risquet Speaks 1
Playa Center Visit 1
Rodriguez Meets Kategaya 1
Brazilian Governor Holds News Conference 2
Ends Official Visit 2

Caricom

Church Conference Leader Cites Caricom Rift 2

Haiti

CEP Publishes List of Accepted Candidates 3
Security Measures Instituted 3
Police Arrest Man for Jacmel Demonstrations 3
Army Conducts Searches, Makes Arrests in Jeremie 4
28 Nov Group Comments on Macoutes in Army 4
J.C. Roy on 'Macoutism' 4
Citizens Interrogated on 29 Nov Incidents 5
People 'Unhappy' 5
Father Adrien and L. Roy at News Conference 6
CED Issues Communique Against Intervention 7
De Ronceray Comments on Moynihan Proposal 7
Sabalat Sends Protest Letter to Regala 8
Vendors in Capital Organize To Make Demands 9

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Judge Denies Amnesty to Killers of U.S. Nuns *[EL MUNDO 8 Jan]* 10
Suspect in Anaya Murder Arrested, Interrogated 10
Police Allege ERP Involved *[DIARIO LATINO 5 Jan]* 10
Duarte Comments on Case 11
FMLN Accuses Government *[Managua]* 11
Samayoa Denies Miranda Bribed 12
Archbishop Comments on Esquipulas, Anaya Case 12

Honduras

Army 'Dislodging' Contras in Eastern Sector 13
Rights Group on 263 'Extrajudicial Executions' *[TIEMPO 11 Jan]* 13

Nicaragua

Nunez Gives Report to Verification Commission *[BARRICADA 6 Jan]* 14

Panama

Noriega on 1989 Elections, Talks With Armitage 17
POST Correspondent Denied Entry, Departs 17
Paredes on Delvalle Statements About Noriega 18
Cardenas on 'Distorted' Talks 18
Observance of 1964 Zone 'Landmark' Planned *[CRITICA 7 Jan]* 18
Defense Forces Deliver Martyrs Day Speech 19
CONATO To March To Defend Benefits 8 Jan 19
Leader Delivers Speech 9 Jan 19

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Technical Mission From IMF Arrives on Visit *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 7 Jan]* 22
Alfonsin Signs Decree on Labor Relations Law 22
Communist Party Calls for National Alliance 22

Brazil

Presidential Spokesman Denies Cabinet Shuffle 23
Finance Minister Meets Guimaraes on IMF Issue 23
Petroleum Council Announces Fuel Price Hikes 23
Police To Use Satellite To Detect Marijuana 24

Chile

Government Protests U.S. Sanctions Before OAS 24
U.S. Financial Aid to Opposition Reported 24
Foreign Minister Receives British Lawmakers 25
Church, Episcopal Conference Answer Fernandez 25
Episcopal Conference Statement 25

Colombia

Change in U.S. Attitude, Measures Sought 25
Alleged Attack on Ochoa Judge Investigated 26
Revelations on Drug Bribe Payments Disclosed 26

Ecuador

President Denies Bribing Election Candidate *[AFP]* 26
Briefs 26
Growth, Debt Figures Reported 26
Uranium, Vanadium Discovery 27

Paraguay

Further Comment on U.S. Envoy's Interview *[PATRIA 10 Jan]* 27

Cuba

Castro Welcomes Ugandan President Museveni

FL111240 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Yoweri K. Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda and of the National Resistance Council, last night received the Giron Order at the Palace of Conventions. The African head of state is visiting Cuba at the head of a high-level delegation. Museveni arrived last night and was received at the Jose Marti International Airport by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. In the name of the rest of the country, Havana residents gave the distinguished visitor a warm welcome.

Following the decoration ceremony, Museveni attended a reception in his honor hosted by the Cuban president.

During his stay in Cuba, Museveni will visit places of historic, economic, and social interest, as well as the Isle of Youth, where some 100,000 young Africans and Nicaraguans go to school.

Risquet Speaks

FL111942 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Report by Gisela Bel Heredia; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has presented the Playa Giron Order to Yoweri Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda and the National Resistance Council, in recognition of his prominent role in his country's revolutionary movement and his proven friendship toward the Cuban revolution. The ceremony took place at the Palace of the Revolution [as heard] and the decoration was preceded by a speech from PCC Politburo member Jorge Risquet.

After hailing Uganda's history of struggle and noting the crimes it has been the object of, Risquet expressed certainty that the visit will further confirm identical views on the common goals of world peace, nuclear disarmament, national independence, and the economic development of the Third World. Your presence in Cuba, he stressed, is a selfless and courageous gesture for which our people are deeply grateful.

[Risquet] "The Cuban people tonight are deeply pleased to honor the heroic struggle of the Ugandan people, by awarding the architect of their victory, the leader of their future development—you, President Yoweri Museveni—the Playa Giron Order, which stands for the first military defeat of Yankee imperialism in the Americas and the invincibility of nations when they are determined to defend their freedom at any cost."

With the medal pinned on his chest, and following a warm embrace from the commander in chief, Museveni gave an account of the situation his country has faced and is still facing, as well as the efforts of the Ugandan leaders. I can assure you, he said, we are making strides in our struggle and are developing our forces to guarantee the freedom and the success of our cause.

[Museveni, in English with consecutive Spanish translation, from poor quality recording] "In the name of our people and movement, (?I bring) greetings and thanks to the Cuban people for their [words indistinct] successes [passage indistinct] the order you have awarded me. It is an honor [words indistinct]; you are honoring our struggle."

The Ugandan delegation arrived yesterday in our country and was received at the Jose Marti International Airport by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and a large crowd of Havana residents. During their stay in Cuba, Museveni and his delegation will observe a schedule of activities which will end on Saturday.

Playa Center Visit

FL112040 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Yoweri Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda and of the National Resistance Council, today visited the "Amiguitos de Celia" child care center in Playa Municipality. The distinguished visitor was accompanied during his tour by Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo, and Playa officials.

President Museveni was briefed on the characteristics of child care centers in Cuba and the training of the centers' personnel. He was also told that four child care centers were built in Playa in 1987, each one able to take in 210 children. The "Amiguitos de Celia," he was informed, was number 54 in the capital city. The Ugandan leader stated these child care centers illustrate how children and their mothers have been freed from a primitive traditional system. Signing the visitors' book, he reiterated this theme and said these achievements help to make us stronger to fight for a better world.

This morning Museveni paid tribute to our national hero, Jose Marti. With Jorge Risquet he laid a wreath at the monument to Marti on Revolution Square. Also attending the ceremony were Eriya Kategaya, minister of state and member of the National Resistance Council, and the other members of the high-ranking Ugandan delegation, along with the Cuban delegation made up of several ministers and vice ministers.

Rodriguez Meets Kategaya

FL090340 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0313 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Eriya Kategaya, Ugandan minister of state, who is in our

country chairing the first session of the joint intergovernmental cooperation committee between Cuba and Uganda. The leaders discussed subjects of mutual interest on the perspectives of economic and scientific-technical cooperation in health, sports, sugar industry, and others. They also talked about current events related to the world economic situation, especially the problems of Third World countries. South-South cooperation, which has allowed development of trade between geographically distant countries, was considered as positive by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and the Ugandan minister of state.

Brazilian Governor Holds News Conference

FL081717 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1324 GMT 8 Jan 88

[News conference by Carlos Gomes Bezerra, governor of Mato Grosso, Brazil, at Havana's Palace of Conventions, with participation of journalist Elsa Pantojas; Gomes Bezerra speaks in Portuguese with consecutive Spanish translation; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Gomes Bezerra] The Brazilian Government is struggling for Latin American integration. Our country has looked toward the Atlantic Ocean during its entire history without looking toward the interior of the country or toward Latin America. This [integration] is why President Sarney went to Argentina. He signed agreements with Argentina, Mexico, and now Bolivia. The president will be in Bolivia in a few days. We also visited Argentina.

Two Brazilian governors have visited Cuba. The first was Governor Orestes Quercia from Sao Paulo who was here just a few days ago and now our delegation is here and has had concrete and objective discussions on relations with Cuba.

We have begun by signing letters of understanding. We have met with the Education, Health, Agriculture, Sugar, and Foreign Ministries, as well as with Cuban President Fidel Castro, who gave us special attention. He spoke with us for more than 2 hours, which demonstrates the Cuban president's appreciation for my country, Brazil, and for us.

We are going to, as we should, arrange for some assistance. For example, in the health area, Cuba [changes thought]... Mato Grosso is in the central eastern part of Brazil. It has the greatest incidence of leprosy in the world. I am pleased Cuba has developed some expertise, such as vaccinations and other things which are important and basic in the health field.

There are also other things in the agriculture sector we can negotiate. This also applies to the science and sugar sectors. There are several areas in which Cuba is more advanced than Brazil. It uses sugarcane more efficiently and rationally. Cuba and Brazil are two of the largest sugar producers in the world. My state also produces sugar and I think we will discuss this further in our next talks. Cuban authorities also want to develop these possibilities. They told me as much.

Aside from the agreements which may eventually come about, the important thing is the contact, which, in my opinion, cannot be opportunistic and [word indistinct].

Latin American integration needs to be reconstructed a little bit at a time and then more permanently. In this sense, our steps have to be firm and secure.

[Pantojas] Governor, you said you spoke to President Castro for more than 2 hours. Could you please expand on one of these topics?

[Gomes Bezerra] We discussed health, education, and agriculture, as well as economic and social matters. It was a very extensive and lengthy meeting, 2 hours, and the time passed in a flash. We could have talked for 5 or 6 more hours but the president had other commitments and we had to interrupt the talks. It was a very objective and pertinent conversation.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the reception we received here in Cuba from everyone.

Ends Official Visit

FL090048 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Carlos Gomez Bezerra, governor of the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso, today ended his official visit to Cuba. In Havana, he noted the progress made by Cuba in the areas of education and public health. The position of the Brazilian Government in respect to Cuba is very clear; we wish full relations and Latin American unity, said Gomez Bezerra.

Caricom

Church Conference Leader Cites Caricom Rift

FL072046 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] The general secretary of the Caribbean Conference of Churches, the Reverend (Alan Perkins) said the rift which surfaced at yesterday's meeting of Caribbean leaders in Barbados is bound to have repercussion on future Caricom relations.

He was speaking in an interview with RJR news.

[Begin (Perkins) recording] I was extremely disturbed at the way in which the meeting went. I believe that—if we were just to take the daylight hours—of the daylight hours during which the meeting convened, probably only about 1 hour was spent discussing Haiti. All of the rest of the time was tied up in trying to discuss who the people were that were meeting.

I discovered as I listened that what we are facing is a very serious ideological confrontation within and among the Caricom leadership: Those who were feeling strongly that the Caribbean democratic union was really holding an extended meeting and those who felt that it was a Caricom meeting. And of course, there are some other interests which we must not close our eyes to. That is to say, another opposing ideological position that was contesting for attention.

And the two things about that that troubled me are:

1. The fact that the central issue caught so little of our leaders attention;

2. That we had gotten ourselves so wrapped up in ideological infighting or fighting that we are once again not dealing with an agenda that is ours. [end recording]

Haiti

CEP Publishes List of Accepted Candidates

FL112308 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] The government's CEP [Provisional Electoral Council] on Saturday afternoon published the list of citizens it has accepted as presidential candidates for the 17 January elections.

Half of the 22 candidates who wished to run for president were rejected. The 11 candidates remaining are: Gerard Philippe Auguste, MOP [Movement for the Organization of the Country]; Michel Lamartiniere Honorat, UNFD [National Union of Democratic Forces]; Leslie Manigat, RDNP [Assembly of Progressive National Democrats]; Jean Theagene, UNDH [Union Nationale des Democrates Haitiens, National Union of Haitian Democrats; Gregoire Eugene, PSCH [Haitain Social Christian Party]; Hubert de Ronceray, MDN [Mobilization for National Development]; Dumas Jean Arnold, PNDT [National Party for the Defense of the Workers]; Dieuveuil Joseph, independent; Hugo Noel, independent; Hector Estime, independent; and Lysias C. Verret, Paran [Parti de Ralliement Nationale, National Rally Party].

Most of the citizens who were disqualified the first time around were again rejected, with the exception of Jean Theagene. Among them are certain major Duvalierists. Under the CNG's [National Government Council] electoral law, which is totally different from the first electoral law, the candidates rejected can this time appeal to the Court of Cassation, which can rule in their favor, thus reinstating them as candidates.

Contrary to what happened on the night of 2 November, after the [original] CEP rejected the candidates the first time, on the night of 9 January no fires were set and no armed attacks were launched against the government's CEP. Also, contrary to the first time, the police were patrolling all over Port-au-Prince on Saturday evening and cars were searched on all the main roads. Cars were searched on National Highways 1 and 2 until daylight.

There was much shooting with heavy weapons in several sections of Port-au-Prince on Saturday and Sunday nights.

Although the population has received the new CEP's decision with a certain amount of curiosity—with everyone trying to figure out what lies behind the decision—it doesn't change a thing as far as the public's having made up its mind about the 17 January elections. The population is standing firm. What remains important to them is respect for the contents of the Haitian Constitution, which gives the Haitian people the right to organize free, honest, democratic elections under an autonomous CEP which will cooperate with a government whose role is primarily to guarantee security for the elections without getting involved in the organization of the elections, which is not its business.

Security Measures Instituted

FL112245 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] The Haitian Army took important security measures Saturday evening in Port-au-Prince, after radio stations announced that the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] had disqualified certain presidential candidates because of close ties to the Francois and Jean-Claude Duvalier regimes.

The Army set up roadblocks on the main roads in the capital and searched all cars. They even searched the occupants of the vehicles. Meanwhile, armed soldiers were seen patrolling all over Port-au-Prince.

We learned from official authorities that the measures were taken in connection with the announcement that certain presidential candidates were going to be disqualified: for example, eight candidates who were disqualified from the 29 November elections by the former CEP.

The former CEP was disbanded on 29 November by the civilian-military National Government Council.

Police Arrest Man for Jacmel Demonstrations

FL082240 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1145 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Report by correspondent (Pierre Nazon Boliere)]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On Wednesday, 6 January, at approximately 2130, the police arrested a young man, Roland Nelson, better known as Ti Roland, at a night club during a fair. Many people were not aware he had been arrested.

Ti Roland Nelson is a city hall employee, but back when there were demonstrations in Jacmel, he was always at the front of the demonstrations.

Army Conducts Searches, Makes Arrests in Jeremie

FL112210 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1700 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Excerpt] We will now go to Jeremie, where (Ertho Zamor)reports there are many soldiers in Jeremie, as there are in Port-au-Prince. In Jeremie, the military are searching houses and ships in accordance with the Jeremie security measures.

[(Zamor)] Rumors have been circulating since the weekend to the effect there were civilians in Jeremie planning to take up arms. This had been denied by certain people.

Nevertheless, the streets of Jeremie have been full of policemen since this morning. There are armed soldiers at almost every corner. The soldiers are not merely patrolling. They are searching all vehicles coming from Port-au-Prince and all ships entering the port.

The military has now begun arresting the people usually seen heading demonstrations in Jeremie.

To get further information, we went to the barracks in Jeremie, where the commander of the military department, Captain (Sagat Saintil) told us the arrests were made as part of a preventive operation against a number of people who are spreading propaganda against the January 1988 elections. According to the captain, Article 66 of the new electoral law prohibits all [words indistinct] to not vote. Reliable sources say these operations will continue because the military authorities say actions are being taken to cause disorder on the occasion of the elections.

Unfortunately, we did not have an opportunity to meet with the people who have been arrested.

Several militants have gone into hiding. [passage omitted]

28 Nov Group Comments on Macoutes in Army

FL112231 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 11 Jan 88

[By Grande Anse correspondent (Franklin Valentin)]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A news release from the 28 November group [MNP-28, Mouvement National Patriotique du 28 Novembre, National Patriotic Movement of 28 November—a political group based in Jeremie which is a member of the Patriotic Unitarian Bloc] says one can forget a blow unless the blow leaves a scar.

Thursday, 8 January 1988 marks exactly 2 years from the date the Army got together with the macoutes to make martyrs of the youth of Jeremie in defense of the Duvalier government. Back then it was to defend Duvalier. Today, in order to defend the macoute CNG [National Government Council], the Army does not hesitate to trample the people's guts.

All this shows very clearly that this Army is still not a people's army. It does not exist to defend people's interests. It does not exist to provide people with security. This clearly shows that only the rooster's owner will watch out for the rooster's safety.

It is up to the people to organize themselves in all villages, neighborhoods, and towns in order to provide security.

The uprooting was not finished and the macoutes returned in force. The cassava plants were not uprooted and the macoutes put their foot down on the people's neck.

All this clearly shows that if the people want to be able to breathe, they must rise up for a "wipe the slate clean" movement to wipe the slate clean of all macoutes and other enemies of the people.

Signing the note for the 28 November group are (Pierrot Marcel) and (Jean Mario Sicler). [passage omitted]

J.C. Roy on 'Macoutism'

FL082310 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] Here is a statement from Jean Claude Roy.

Does one have to put up with a myriad of injustices from a group of macoutes in order to avoid being labeled antinationalist? No, no, and no, says Jean Claude Roy.

He believes the antinationalists are those who, obsessed with power at any price and through their insistence on using violence against people who have given a definitive "no" to macoutism, will end up by causing foreign troops to come into Haiti.

It is up to them to put down their weapons and bow to the people's will. If our territory is violated, only they will have been responsible. And if history is doomed to repeat itself, we will have another Vilbrun Guillaume Sam [short-term Haitian president who was killed by a mob in 1915], he says.

The worst is indeed inevitable. The consensus is maximal; the people are sick and tired of being (?tooled around). They want things to change and have become aware (?they themselves can bring about that change).

As for myself, Jean Claude Roy says, I will always be on the side of the people. However long it takes, the people will finally win.

If I have to die for my country, I hope my death is as beautiful as Yves Volel's, Roy says. There, gentlemen, is the result of your stupid killings! They create martyrs, who provide beautiful examples for us to follow.

Roy says: All you citizens of my country, I ask you to lift up your heads and be proud to be Haitian, fully Haitian. May your children, relatives, and friends be proud of you, concludes Jean Claude Roy in his letter.

Citizens Interrogated on 29 Nov Incidents

FL112335 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] On Tuesday, 5 January, the special investigating committee formed by the government to investigate the 29 November incidents summoned nine citizens of Gonaives to appear before the Justice Ministry on Friday, 8 January, in connection with a matter concerning them, without stating what the matter was, as is required by law.

Only two of the nine citizens appeared: Ronald St Jean and his brother Michelet St Jean.

After a tough interrogation—particularly of Ronald St Jean, a Gonaives democratic sector militant—the investigating committee let these two citizens go, promising that Ronald St Jean would be receiving a second summons asking him to appear for trial. The investigating committee informed him that rumors in Gonaives accused him of bearing much responsibility for the death of (Velin Jacques).

(Jacques), who was deputy director of the Banque Nationale de Credit in Saint-Marc, died after being shot in Gonaives on 29 November by a group of armed men wearing uniforms, while these men were spoiling the elections.

The day after the nine citizens were to appear before the investigating committee, the police in Gonaives were out looking for (Joe Lucie), one of the nine who was supposed to appear before the Ministry of Justice on Friday, 8 January. (Lucie) was shot in the thigh before he was caught and taken to Port-au-Prince under military escort.

(Lucie) is one of the citizens who, together with Jean Tatoune and (Flovel Saintvil)—two other leaders in the area who have been in hiding since last September, when the military began looking for them in connection with alleged drug-trafficking—was at the head of the movement to uproot Duvalier.

However, Tatoune and (Saintvil) claim they were not being pursued because of drugs but rather because they had denounced a conspiracy between the Port-au-Prince authorities and certain citizens in Gonaives to have the latter spy for the authorities and sow division among the sector struggling for change.

A little girl was also shot in the foot when (Lucie) was arrested.

People "Unhappy"

FL120045 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 11 Jan 88

[By Gonaives correspondent (Edgard Bruno)]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] [Passage omitted] Another person from Gonaives, Mr Ronald St Jean, a member of the National Concerted Action Front, was summoned to Port-au-Prince and heard by the special investigating committee formed by the National Government Council [CNG] to shed light on the incidents leading up to and culminating in the events of 29 November.

According to Ronald St Jean, the committee accuses him of being involved in the death of another resident of Gonaives, (Verlaine Jacques), who was deputy director of a bank and who died in Gonaives at the beginning of December from—according to local correspondents—abuse inflicted upon him by a group of soldiers. [passage omitted]

[(Bruno)] Many people in Gonaives were astonished to hear the statements made by the special investigating committee regarding the 29 November incidents in Haiti and in Gonaives, particularly in reference to the death of (Jacques), deputy director of the Banque Nationale de Credit in Saint-Marc.

In this regard, we have received much testimony from people in Gonaives calling the special investigating committee dishonest.

At approximately 0900, soldiers clad in olive green who had come in a Toyota jeep with Haitian Armed Forces license plates had entered (Jacques') house and seized him. They mistreated him and finally shot him in the thigh. He died in the hospital on 2 December 1987.

His close relatives told us the soldiers had acted in front of everybody and that the special investigating committee cannot now come and clear the Army of blame and blame civilians instead.

Many people in Gonaives are unhappy with the special investigating committee's statement that the public hue and cry in Gonaives accuses Ronald St Jean of committing such a crime. Teachers, merchants, and simple citizens who live in Gonaives on Avenue des Dattes, where (Jacques) lived before his death, say there was indeed public hue and cry, but that it was against the olive-green-clad soldiers who killed (Jacques). These citizens say if the special investigating committee were trying to do a serious job, it would not be acting this way, because the Haitian Armed Forces' Toyota jeep is still there. It is still in Haitian Army service.

The investigating committee must start over; and this time it must go into the Toussaint Louverture Barracks in Gonaives, to find out which olive-green-clad soldiers killed (Jacques).

People in Gonaives have nothing to do with this. The committee should not be accusing anybody in Gonaives of killing (Jacques). Soldiers killed (Jacques) in Gonaives in front of everybody.

This is what many people in Gonaives have told us, even (Jacques') close relatives. [passage omitted]

Father Adrien and L. Roy at News Conference
FL072228 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Following a declaration signed by more than 50 organizations in favor of democracy in Haiti, the committee for the pro-unity initiative held a news conference yesterday at the Holiday Inn Le Plaza Hotel. [passage omitted] We had a reporter present at yesterday morning's news conference. Here is her report:

The committee for the pro-unity initiative held a news conference at the Holiday Inn Le Plaza Hotel at 1000 today [5 January] to explain in greater detail why it had taken all the trouble to publish the declaration in favor of democracy following the 29 November massacre. The declaration was made public on 1 January 1988. [passage omitted]

Father Antoine Adrien took the floor to explain why they had formed a new group. He said the crisis in Haiti had worsened after 29 November, and the people had seen clearly and understood they must fight for a change based on the Constitution. However, according to Father Adrien, the elections being proposed to the people are not constitutional. He said that therefore a committee, which is not a political party but does represent all sectors of the civilian population, had been formed in order to have a louder voice with which to make the people's cries heard and to have greater force. We will listen to Father Antoine Adrien's statements:

[Begin Father Adrien recording, in progress]...in its roots, in its existence. Since 7 February 1986, the Haitian people, the Haitian society, have been struggling for something—for change. What do they understand by change? By that they understand that finally, after 185 years of Haitian history, they will be able to have a society where the rule of law prevails, where the Constitution prevails, where no bigshot can come and say to me: You will do this or that because I want you to. You will accept this or that because I say so. The Haitian people want a society in which all of us—from the top to the bottom of the social scale and from the government to the most humble citizen—will obey a constitution.

The Haitian society is willing to fight for that in every way. It has made big sacrifices to obtain this. The Constitution of 29 March 1987 was ratified by 99 percent of the voters. Many people have died and more are willing to die for that. On 29 November, when there was shooting from heavy-caliber weapons, the people in line stood up after the shooting stopped and said they would not leave. They did that again and again.

When they learned they would not be able to vote, people were crying and howling. And the people have been almost intoxicated ever since. They seem to feel the change they want is not going to occur.

The people feel this even more strongly due to the fact that what has been proposed to us in its stead is unlawful. We are struggling to have the law, the Constitution, serve as a guide for everyone, but they come and propose to us an election not prescribed in the Constitution. We cannot accept these elections regardless of who runs in them, because the Constitution is not the guiding principle for these elections. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Dr Louis E. Roy also spoke. He said all sectors had to join to hold free and honest elections. He said we had to sit down and negotiate with all sectors, even with the National Government Council, in order to start the electoral process over again.

[Begin Roy recording] I think in a crisis as serious as this , it is the government's duty to call everyone to sit around a table, even if it thinks, or even knows, that we are going to ask it to leave power. In my opinion, it is the political duty, the moral duty, the civic duty, of the authorities to summon everyone, since the people are making it clear they do not want, do not want, do not want [repeats himself] this to continue. They must take into account the people's opinion.

We held today's meeting because all of us here, who are of good faith, are seeking a consensus so that everyone, all sectors, even those who have not yet signed the manifesto [words indistinct] [end recording]

Dr Roy's statement gave rise to much indignation from many attending the news conference, but Father Adrien explained to everyone that, as it was stated in the 1 January declaration, they do want another provisional government. [passage omitted]

Again Father Adrien reiterated they want all sectors of the population to really respect the Constitution; that the Constitution is not just for civilians. We will listen to Father Antoine Adrien.

[Begin Father Adrien recording, in progress]...a society based on law, based on the Constitution. The Constitution does not apply only to citizens. It applies to the government too. We ask the government to respect the Constitution it swore to respect. It swore it would respect

the Constitution, but it looks as if as soon as it made this vow, it began violating the Constitution worse than ever. We are asking the government to respect the Constitution. [end recording]

In conclusion, the members of the pro-unity committee called for a mobilization of all sectors of the civilian population to prevent the 17 January elections, which are not in keeping with the Constitution. They said that if despite everything, these elections are held, everyone should declare them null and void.

They declared that they themselves had no forces, that they had no weapons with which to physically prevent the elections from being held. They said it was up to the people, to all the different sectors of the population, to (?themselves refuse) to accept these elections.

The committee members added that other parties, other groups, could perhaps see how they could counter the government and prevent the elections, but that they themselves really felt that all they can do is respect the Constitution and hold free and honest elections, as prescribed in the Constitution of 1987.

CED Issues Communique Against Intervention

FL112354 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Here is the latest communique from the Committee for Democratic Agreement [CED].

The government media occasionally implies there will be foreign intervention in Haiti and that the democratic movement is plotting to have this happen.

The CED wishes to reiterate its position on this matter.

Everyone knows that the CNG [National Government Council] and the entire sector that is against a democratic change in Haiti is brandishing the threat of foreign intervention in order to conceal their responsibility in the huge crisis Haiti is experiencing.

If one takes a good look at what the population is demanding with all its might, one sees that the population is asking for an electoral council independent of the government to hold free elections so we can climb out of the bottomless pit in which we have been for the past 30 years.

All the rumors the government and its flunkies are spreading about a foreign military intervention are a smokescreen aimed at concealing what the people want. Who is talking about a foreign intervention in Haiti? Who is really threatening the country? Who is selling out the country?

In analyzing the situation, these questions can be answered easily: It is the government itself with its armed groups of Tontons Macoutes which is provoking the threat of intervention. They are violating the Haitian Constitution, abusing the people, and sowing fear in Haiti. They themselves ruined the elections, massacred defenseless civilians and want to hold on to their macoute power at any cost.

Remember the CNG itself swore it would lead the country along the path to democracy and would respect all the dispositions of the Constitution, install an independent CEP, and hold proper elections. That same CNG swore before the United Nations that it would provide the necessary security so democratic elections could be held properly. They received American and Venezuelan military personnel and they gave a final guarantee before the U.S. State Department's George Shultz, Mr Seaga [Jamaican Prime Minister] and other Caricom chiefs of state.

If today the entire international community says it is unhappy and unsatisfied, it is because of the CNG's action and lack of credibility.

Who talks about nationalism but says not one word about the country's economic, financial, and commercial dependency? Those same people who talk about nationalism do nothing at all—in the name of our national dignity after 184 years of independence, which has cost us dearly—about the abuse, trials, and tribulations of our compatriots in the Dominican Republic's sugar mills.

Our position is clear on this matter. Without arguments, the CED never has and never will accept the idea of foreign intervention, much less ask anyone to send military troops to our country. This position is linked to our desire to establish a proper democracy in Haiti through our own means. It is in this sense that we receive all demonstrations of international solidarity with our country in respect for peace and for our own ability to govern ourselves, with our sovereign people, with our rights, in our country.

All these vile words threatening foreign intervention are maneuvers by the authorities to hide their desire to prevent proper, democratic elections in Haiti and to prevent the change which the people want from taking place in Haiti.

The Haitian people are not dumb anymore and the plot will fail.

That was a note from the CED.

De Ronceray Comments on Moynihan Proposal

FL072250 Port-au-Prince Radio National in Creole 1400 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The U.S. Government has expressed its opposition on new sanctions against Haiti. It also set forth its position regarding a foreign intervention in Haiti to come and ensure that the coming elections are held properly. [passage omitted]

Patrick Moynihan, Democratic senator for New York, called for an intervention in Haiti by a multinational force so that free elections can be held and Louis Dejoie, a candidate in last 29 November's elections, said that the Haitian people are in favor of this and that 90 percent of the Haitian people would welcome an intervention by a multinational foreign force. [sentence as heard]

We have on the line professor Hubert de Ronceray, [leader of the Mobilization for National Development, MDN] who is going to set forth for us his position vis-a-vis these statements.

[De Ronceray] I heard about the statements made by N.Y. Democratic Senator Patrick Moynihan. There are four points in connection with the statements which merit discussion.

First of all, according to the report I heard, he said a multinational force should come guarantee peace in Haiti, disarm the Haitian Armed Forces, occupy the country for 2 years, and organize free and democratic elections. Let's address the first point.

First of all, as far as we of the MDN know, Haiti is not at war with anyone. It is true Haiti is having some internal problems as all countries do and we know the solution to these internal problems depends on Haitians. It is not up to foreigners to solve them for us. After a 29-year-long dictatorship, we are going through a transitional period towards a democracy. As we know, such periods always give rise to tensions, everywhere in the world. There are confrontations between rival political groups seeking to take power.

Those who say they want a foreign intervention do not want to come here to establish peace in Haiti. All they want is to exterminate certain people in Haiti. If this were to occur, many Haitians would die but many Haitians would kill, too.

There is this business of disarming the Haitian Armed Forces. We wonder where are the people who are going to replace the members of the Haitian Armed Forces? Where are they going to find them?

We ourselves think this is a communist project, a project of the far left. Now we see that the far left and the far right are getting together to strangle one of the best institutions in the country. If this were to happen I think it might be the bloodiest chapter in the history of Haiti, after the war of independence.

In the third place, we see they are talking to us about elections in Haiti, elections they would hold for us. We are very surprised to see them today imposing on Haiti an electoral jacket which they cannot wear, which is too tight for them. We wonder why today international forces want to come hold elections for us here in Haiti, whereas when we here were fighting to get rid of the dictatorship, all the bigshots told us they would not intervene in the internal affairs of a country. Back then, they all felt that Jean-Claude Duvalier, that the Duvalierists, were an internal Haitian matter and they should not meddle. Whereas today we see them talking about a multinational force to come and dismiss a constitutional government which will leave power on 7 February 1988. To tell you the truth, we don't really understand this. There is more to this than meets the eye that they are not telling us about.

We have noted that following 7 February, we ourselves had said elections should be held within 6 months, before October of 1986. Certain people told us: No, 2 years are needed. So now what has happened? See where those 2 years have led the country? The country is now in a mess.

We ourselves had said things had to be done right away because there would be serious political problems and there would be school problems. That is exactly what happened.

Today they are telling us they will give us democracy but they must occupy us first. We inform everyone Haiti's history and culture show you cannot just come and do whatever you want with Haiti.

The MDN reminds Mr Moynihan that Haiti has no quarrel with any bigshot. It is a little country struggling to survive. We would hope Moynihan's plan is his own and not that of the U.S. Government. I think the U.S. Government is lucid. There are things it sees which are possible and things which are not. We also remind the antinationals—the group of frustrated characters who cannot be president, the people who throughout history have always tried to sell out the country or give it away in order to further their personal interests or the interests of their particular group—that the Haitian Constitution acknowledges the right and the responsibility of all 6 million Haitians to build a stable and strong state, a republic that no one can chop up into pieces.

Sabalat Sends Protest Letter to Regala

FL082300 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Mr Jean Robert Sabalat has written a letter to Major General Williams Regala, minister of Interior and National Defense:

Mr Minister,

The prohibition to leave the country levied against me, and what is even more serious, the confiscation of my passport by immigration service employees at the Port-au-Prince airport, as I was departing to attend as a free observer the Caricom conference on Haiti in Barbados, constitute for me outrageous and violent acts; I must most strongly and vehemently protest.

I was most unpleasantly surprised to learn they were acting on instructions from your ministry. I was never informed as to the reasons for this arbitrary, illegal, and unconstitutional decision. [passage omitted]

Jean Robert Sabalat says: No, Mr Minister. I refuse to even consider such a possibility. Therefore, I am writing you to ask the real reasons for forbidding me to leave the country and confiscating my Haitian passport, which I am proud to say I never renounced. [passage omitted]

While awaiting an answer from you, which I hope will not be long in coming, I wish to introduce myself, in case you do not yet know who I am. Should you already know who I am, I would like to remind you I returned to this country on 21 March 1986, after 27 years in exile.

I am aware of the risks to which my initiatives expose me, but I could not live with myself and would rather follow the example of my father—that patriot assassinated in a cowardly manner by Duvalierist henchmen, whose memory is etched in the minds of many of our country's poor—than to betray the moral principles I inherited from him, Sabalat concludes in his letter to the minister of Interior and National Defense.

Vendors in Capital Organize To Make Demands

FL120029 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole Network 1200 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Here is a news release from the Association of Vendors of the Salomon Marketplace. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Gerard Noel has issued much propaganda and made many promises over radio and television about how he he was ready to care for the vendors and to rebuild the marketplace and obtain the money the vendors lost in the fire. Up to now, nothing along these lines has been done. We see that their statements were just empty promises aimed at making people think they were working.

In view of this situation, we the Association of Vendors of the Salomon Marketplace inform everyone we have decided not to pay our site permits until the marketplace has been properly rebuilt. We are not asking for a favor by requesting that the marketplace be reconstructed. The state owes it to us. We have been paying site permits for more than 30 years. Today, we must finally see what that money is good for. [passage omitted]

We have decided to organize to solve the problem of all the vendors in the marketplace. We invite all other vendors in Port-au-Prince and throughout the country to join us to wipe the slate clean of all the enemies of the people until our demands have been met.

El Salvador

Judge Denies Amnesty to Killers of U.S. Nuns

PA111440 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 8 Jan 88 p 1

[Excerpts] Today at 0900, First District Judge Consuelo Salazar denied the request for amnesty presented by the former Guardsmen convicted of murdering four U.S. nuns. She ruled that the case involved a common crime without any connection to political crimes.

The convicts had requested to be released due to the Amnesty Law that the government decreed on 27 October 1987 and took effect on 5 November.

The judge stated in her ruling that the request was denied because it was unfounded. She additionally ordered that the prisoners be notified of her decision. They are serving time at the Santa Ana, San Vicente, and Mariona jails. [passage omitted]

Moreover, the attorney general of the Republic said that he agreed with Judge Salazar's ruling because it adheres to the law.

The convicts were tried not only for murder but also for damaging the property of the Archbishopric of San Salvador, and for stealing from the Catholic Church. Other amnesty cases still pending include the Las Hojas murders in Sonsonate Department and the Zona Rosa murders in San Salvador Department.

Suspect in Anaya Murder Arrested, Interrogated

Police Allege ERP Involved

PA072120 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 5 Jan 88 p 2

[Government press release issued in San Salvador on 4 January]

[Text] The Executive Department of the Commission for the Investigation of Criminal Acts hereby informs the Salvadoran people that, in conjunction with the National Police, it has arrested Jorge Alberto Miranda Arevalo. Miranda also uses the aliases Erick and Jacinto in his activities as a member of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), a terrorist organization that is a component of the FMLN-FDR.

Miranda was caught shooting the tires of a soda truck in the Zacamil neighborhood.

Under interrogation, he voluntarily stated that, on orders of the ERP, he had participated in other activities, including the murder of Herbert Anaya Sanabria. Anaya was the former president of the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador, which is a nongovernmental organization. In summary, the prisoner stated the following:

On 20 or 21 October of last year, Miranda's superior in the ERP, who was also the head of his terrorist cell, an individual known to him by the aliases Fernando or Ivan, summoned him, along with his comrades known as Carlos, or Israel, and Jose. They met at approximately 2000 in front of the Route 30 bus terminal between the Metropolis and San Ramon areas. At this point, Fernando ordered them to kill Herbert Anaya Sanabria, who was already burned out because, having worked with the authorities, he was no longer functioning properly in his post as human rights coordinator and was also providing information to the Armed Forces. They were ordered to carry out the order on the 26th of the same month. The blame would then be placed on the Armed Forces.

At that time, Fernando assigned duties to each of them. He [Miranda] was ordered to be a guard for Carlos, who was to shoot Anaya Sanabria. Jose would drive the vehicle.

Later, Jose showed Miranda where Anaya Sanabria lived, then later pointed out Anaya Sanabria to him. The group watched Anaya Sanabria's house for several days to determine when he left his home.

On 25 October, in the aforementioned place, Carlos, Jose, and Miranda met with Fernando to discuss the times Anaya Sanabria left his house.

On 26 October, at approximately 0620, they then picked him [Miranda] up at the Metropolis Park in a light yellow pickup truck. Carlos and Jose were in the truck, with Jose driving. Carlos gave him [Miranda] a gun. They then drove to where the incident took place.

After the crime was committed, they drove off in the same vehicle and left it near the Paris Movie Theater. A week later, they met again in the same place where they had planned the operation. Fernando then congratulated them since everything had gone well.

Miranda mentioned other terrorist activities in which he had also been involved.

The spontaneity and the truthfulness of his statement was technically proven as follows:

1. Everything that was stated—dates, places, and addresses, as well as the crimes committed—was investigated and verified.

2. Due to the cooperation of the testifier, the arsenal of his terrorist cell was discovered, and ammunition, explosives, and several weapons were confiscated.

3. Polygraph (lie detector): The polygraph test showed that he was telling the truth in all of his statements, especially the one that described the killing of Anaya Sanabria.

4. Recalling events: The prisoner sketched the murder scene by hand. This drawing perfectly matched the place where the crime was actually committed.

Based on statements the prisoner made, the events were reconstructed in the presence of the special district attorney from the new Human Rights Department. It was verified that his [Miranda's] statement matched those given by eyewitnesses.

Therefore, it has been sufficiently proven that the prisoner was indeed present where the events took place at the exact time they happened.

5. Police sketches of the remainder of those involved were drawn: Nelson Martinez Ordonez, Carlos, who fired the shots; Jose, who drove the vehicle and whose name is still unknown; and Fernando, who is considered to be the mastermind of the crime.

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our unyielding commitment to serve the Salvadoran people and to ask for your cooperation so that we can capture the rest of those involved in this homicide.

San Salvador, 4 January 1988

Duarte Comments on Case

PA080157 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish
0300 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] By luck or coincidence, the murder of Herbert Anaya Sanabria was solved, Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte noted this afternoon while briefing reporters. He was commenting on the remarks by one of the persons accused of this murder. This person was arraigned on Monday. President Duarte was accompanied by Julio Alfredo Samayoa, minister of justice and chairman of the Commission To Investigate Criminal Act. In reply to a question from a newsman, Duarte noted that he had full trust in the results of the investigation and in the investigatory commission—as much as your own newspaper trusts you, he emphasized.

[Duarte] "Therefore, we know the truth. We have the moral and police truth. Everything is now a matter of judicial truth. This lies in the hands of the judicial branch, not the executive branch."

Minister of Justice Samayoa explained that the National Police had arrested Jorge Alberto Miranda Arevalo on 23 December on charges of setting fire to a delivery truck belonging to the Cascada Company. While this man was questioned the murder of Herbert Anaya Sanabria began to unravel. According to Samayoa, Miranda Arevalo said he belonged to the ERP, as do the other persons who participated in the murder. These individuals are still at large.

[Samayoa] "He [Miranda] approached Anaya Sanabria, who was near his car door. Carlos [not further identified] then walked toward him with a gun concealed in his jacket. He shot him four or five times, then Anaya Sanabria fell to the ground."

As for the other three individuals who allegedly participated in the murder, the officials provided addresses, the names of their parents, and composite sketches, but no photographs. Most of the information involved the man accused of actually shooting Anaya Sanabria.

[Samayoa] "After he gave his statement, he was given a polygraph test. The results were positive. In sum, he was telling the truth. He spoke voluntarily. There is a signed affidavit with this confession."

As for the interrogation of Miranda Arevalo, who is also nicknamed Eric, Minister of Justice Samayoa noted that an ERP house was located in the Zacamil neighborhood. He added that weapons were found there, but that ballistic reports also indicated that none of these was used to kill Herbert Anaya Sanabria.

[Samayoa] "There is no doubt that a leftist terrorist group killed him."

According to this official, the ERP ordered the murder of Anaya Sanabria because he was no longer of any use to the group, and because he collaborated with security agencies. As for this last point, 2 months ago a man claiming to be a key witness told a similar story to the judge handling the legal proceedings. This person insisted that the Armed Forces had not participated in the murder. As Minister of Justice Samayoa stressed, Jorge Alberto Miranda Arevalo was arrested on 23 December and then arraigned 12 days later. This is despite the fact that his arraignment should not have followed his arrest by more than 72 hours. However, he was not arraigned because the court hearing the case was on vacation.

FMLN Accuses Government

PA072133 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1440 GMT 6 Jan 88

[FMLN communique broadcast "today" by (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos of El Salvador; read by Comrade Sofia Acosta, of the International Press Services of Radio Venceremos—live]

[Text] The Jose Napoleon Duarte regime ordered the assassination of Herbert Anaya Sanabria, coordinator of the Human Rights Committee of El Salvador. This assassination was part of a plan to increase the repression against the people's movement.

The local and international cost of this crime has been greater than what the Christian Democracts expected.

Now that the members of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission of the Esquipulas II accords are in the Central American region and soon will be visiting El Salvador, Duarte is trying to conceal his responsibility in the assassination of Herbert Anaya with a coarse maneuver. This ploy involves the presentation of a person who allegedly was involved in the crime and who claims to be a member of the FMLN.

This person—who is an imposter, someone who has been paid to play a part, or another victim of the notorious persuasive methods of Duartist repressive bodies—has made incoherent and fabricated statements to the media. This has made the farce evident.

We want to call the attention of the members of the Verification and Follow-Up Commission, the media, and the people to this farce. This is so they are not fooled by this new Christian Democratic lie that only serves to confirm that human rights, justice, and democracy in El Salvador are in a precarious condition.

Samayoa Denies Miranda Bribed

PA110126 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara from the presidential palace]

[Text] Government sources on Thursday admitted having paid 12,000 colones to Jorge Alberto Miranda Arevalo, alias Eric, for revealing the location of an ERP arms cache. However, they denied having bribed Miranda to confess that he murdered Herbert Anaya.

The 12,000 colones were paid on 4 January in keeping with a Christmas offer published on 24 December. Minister of Justice Julio Alfredo Samayoa denied any attempt to bribe Miranda's family, as the latter claimed yesterday before the nongovernmental Salvadoran Human Rights Commission [CDHES].

[Begin recording] [Samayoa] He has a brother and a sister who are among the guerrillas, and a mother living in (Comadres).

[Reporter] Are you speaking of Miranda?

[Samayoa] Yes, Miranda. As for Carlos [not further identified], we possess evidence that he was the other person involved in the truck attack. Also, as for Ivan [not further identified] we have a picture of him [words indistinct] to confront him, although he is not wearing a beard in the picture, his facial features match a composite sketch. Some suspects are being investigated to determine who is Ivan or Fernando. Many people linked to the national university, to AGEUS [General Association of Salvadoran University Students], and to CDHES are involved in the investigations. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Roberto Edmundo Viera, minister of culture and communications, denounced death threats against Minister Samayoa that were revealed today:

[Begin recording] [Viera] We have learned of an ERP threat against the minister because the investigating commission presented facts about the murder of Herbert Anaya. These radical groups are definitely reacting to the investigations by threatening and condemning to death those who are investigating this murder. We denounce this as a violation of human rights; this is the fruit of the mentality of ERP groups. [end recording]

Finally, Minister of Justice Samayoa said that investigation of the case will continue, and that a new report for the press on progress in the case will be issued within the next few hours.

Archbishop Comments on Esquipulas, Anaya Case

PA082330 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas [archbishop of San Salvador] today stated that the lack of goodwill on the part of certain Central American presidents has prevented full compliance with the Esquipulas II agreements.

He added that the Salvadoran Government has certainly sought to comply with that agreement. In evaluating compliance with the peace treaty, Msgr Rivera y Damas reiterated his optimism regarding the creation of new methods for achieving peace.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Monsignor, what changes to the Esquipulas II accords would the church recommend?

[Rivera y Damas] I feel that this matter must be resolved by the experts. We believe that the plan—as it was originally conceived—would have had positive results if all parties involved had expressed goodwill. However, due to this lack of willingness, and because the plan itself does not legally force the parties to comply with it, it is necessary to find other mechanisms to compensate for that flaw. I believe this, unfortunately, is the situation. The parties involved have not displayed the necessary political will or goodwill. [end recording]

As for the role of the Central American Catholic Church in this plan, Msgr Rivera y Damas commented that the church always favors and is optimistic about seeking solutions through dialogue.

Msgr Rivera y Damas was also asked about the Herbert Anaya case, which according to the government has been explained.

[Begin recording] [Rivera y Damas] I believe it was the government's duty to shed light on this crime. If the individual who was arrested is truly implicated and can provide further information, then I believe that the government is fulfilling its obligation to carry out justice, so that crimes such as these do not remain in the dark.

[Reporter] Do you think there is any credibility [in this explanation] since the guerrillas have denied that...

[Rivera y Damas, interrupting] There are always contradictions. In other words, whatever is said by one person is denied by another. [end recording]

Msgr Rivera also stated that subsequent investigations will either confirm or contradict what has been claimed.

Honduras

Army 'Dislodging' Contras in Eastern Sector

PA111541 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Report by Luis Alonso Gomez "from eastern Honduras"]

[Text] Good morning, Voz de Honduras listeners. The report that made the headlines in this newscast this morning—the dislodging of approximately 500 contras from the Capire sector—was confirmed by the commander of the 110th Brigade on Saturday when he visited this area.

The anti-Sandinists who had resettled in this sector were forced to leave the area by orders of the National Army, which has been involved in clean-up operations in this zone.

According to reports from the brigade commander, the Army is not willing to tolerate the presence of the Nicaraguan contras in any of these sectors. This is because such a presence affects the tranquillity of regional neighbors. He also noted that the Verification Commission can come here whenever it wishes and visit all these sectors to confirm, once and for all, that there are no contras here.

We already reported this to you on Saturday [9 January]. In addition, it was said that these contras were probably the same ones who sought to settle in [2-second break in reception] in Olancho Department.

Rights Group on 263 'Extrajudicial Executions'

PA120110 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Jan 88 p 3

[All figures as published]

[Text] Tegucigalpa—A report that the Human Rights Committee delivered to the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission [CIVS] pointed out that 263 people were killed in Honduras in 1987 in actions described as "extrajudicial executions."

The Honduran Human Rights Defense Committee, CODEH—represented by Ramon Custodio, Anibal Puerto, and Miguel Angel Pavon—was the last organization to meet with the CIVS.

The CODEH report surprised the representatives of the foreign ministers of the five Central American countries, the Contadora and Support Groups, the OAS, and the United Nations.

The report, which detailed each case, was made known to the press in a summary. According to this summary, 383 "extrajudicial executions" have taken place during President Jose Azcona's administration. Of these, 263 occurred during 1987 alone.

It has reportedly been confirmed that the state security agencies killed 105 persons during 1987. Two others were killed by Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. The authorities are believed to have killed 156 others of the total of 263.

The report also stated that in 1987, the Public Security Force, FUSEP, killed 55 people; the Army killed 25; and the National Investigations Directorate, DNI, and prison guards killed 3.

The report added that in 1987, prior to the signing of the Guatemala peace agreement, 93 people were executed, while 47 have been slain since August 1987. The report additionally noted that 188 people were illegally detained in 1986, while 356 were illegally detained last year.

Finally, the human rights report indicated that 22 persons were forced to leave the country. In addition, Battalion 3-16 illegally detained one person.

The document also listed death threats, assaults, instances of torture, break-ins, and illegal arrests.

Nicaragua

Nunez Gives Report to Verification Commission

PA081927 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Jan 88 p 4

[Report by Carlos Nunez, president of the National Constituent Assembly, to members of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission dated 5 January 1988, in Managua]

[Text] Honorable gentlemen:

In order to contribute to the fulfillment of your verification and follow-up missions, the Nicaraguan Government deems it proper to inform you about the development of the national dialogue. The Nicaraguan Government and the opposition political parties and groups have been holding this dialogue since 5 October 1987.

The following is a brief review of the main steps taken during the development of this dialogue:

13 September: President Daniel Ortega Saavedra issued a call to all political parties to participate in the national dialogue.

12 September: The government sent out official communications to all political parties asking them to participate in the dialogue, to name their delegates, and to submit an agenda.

5 October: President Daniel Ortega Saavedra installed the national dialogue and appointed the undersigned as his representative. The following attended on behalf of the opposition:

Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua (PCDN), Hernaldo Zuniga Montenegro; Independent Liberal Party (PLI), Guillermo Selva Arguello; Popular Social Christian Party (PPSC), Luis Humberto Guzman; Nicaraguan Socialist Party (PSN), Gustavo Tablada Zelaya; Communist Party of Nicaragua (PCDEN), Comrade Eli Altamirano Perez; Marxist-Leninist People's Action Movement (MAP-ML), Comrade Isidro Tellez; Central American Unionist Party (PUCA), Alejandro Perez Arevalo; Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), Comrade Bonifacio Miranda B.; Social Christian Party (PSC), Agustin Jarquin Anaya; Social Democratic Party (PSD), Guillermo Potoy Arnello; Constitutionalist Liberal Party (PLC), Jose Ernesto Somarriba Sosa; and Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board, Carlos Huembes Trejos.

8 October: During the first session of the national dialogue the delegates of the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board, the PSD, and the PLC withdrew to protest the fact that the government had only invited the political parties and not the managerial and labor organizations comprising the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board. On that occasion, the government explained that in accordance with the Esquipulas II agreements only the legally-constituted political parties in Nicaragua and the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board had been invited through their delegates, as a political coalition.

During that same session, the delegate for the PRT (Trotskyite leaning) announced his withdrawal, pointing out that his organization disagreed with the signing of the Esquipulas II document.

On that same date, and with the participation of eight political parties—PCDN, PLI, PPSC, PSN, PCDEN, MAP-ML, PUCA, and PSC—two technical commissions, composed of representatives named by each one of the parties, were appointed to draw up proposals for the agenda and the rules of the national dialogue.

For 13 and 15 October, second and third sessions, respectively: In these sessions, the discussion of who should participate in the national dialogue continued. In both sessions, the government showed great flexibility in listening to the presentations of the political parties, and finally, in agreeing to send the following letters to the president of the Republic: Commander of the revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra President of the Republic Dear Mr President:

The undersigned political parties agree that, since all the parties and political groups that comprise the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board are already represented, there is no reason for the board as such to participate in the national dialogue, either as a coalition or as an association of any kind. This is because this would defeat the intentions of the Esquipulas II agreements.

We reiterate to you our highest consideration.

Signed: Dr Hernando Zuniga Montenegro, Democratic Conservative Party

Dr Guillermo Selva Arguello, Independent Liberal Party

Dr Luis Humberto Guzman, Popular Social Christian Party

Comrade Luis Sanchez Sancho, Nicaraguan Socialist Party

Comrade Eli Altamirano Perez, Communist Party of Nicaragua

Dr Alejandro Perez Arevalo, Central American Unionist Party Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra President of the Republic Dear Mr President:

We take this opportunity to address you and to inform you of the agreement that was unanimously reached today by the political parties currently participating in the national dialogue. The agreement was to ask you to reconsider your decision concerning the participants in the national dialogue, and to invite those political groups that have asked to participate to do so.

These groups, which have no legal status, would participate as such. They would not acquire legal status and would not be permitted to use the names or symbols of political parties that are legally established and registered.

In this spirit, the Independent Liberal Party agrees to the participation of the political group headed by Dr Eduardo Coronado Perez and the political group headed by Dr Andres Zuniga. The Democratic Conservative Party agrees to the participation of the political groups headed by Mario Rappaccioli and Dr Myriam Arguello. Also, the Social Christian Party agrees to the participation of the political group headed by Dr Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro.

Whatever decision you make after your reconsideration will be accepted as final. As such, it will be fully complied with. The first point of the fourth session will be discussion of the regulations and the agenda.

We take this opportunity to reiterate our highest esteem and consideration.

Signed: Dr Hernando Zuniga Montenegro, Democratic Conservative Party

Dr Guillermo Selva Arguello, Independent Liberal Party

Dr Luis Humberto Guzman, Popular Social Christian Party

Comrade Luis Sanchez Sancho, Nicaraguan Socialist Party

Comrade Isidro Tellez Teruno, Marxist-Leninist Popular Action Movement

Dr Alejandro Perez Arevalo, Central American Unionist Party

Eng Agustin Jarquin Anaya, Social Christian Party

27 October, fourth session: The Nicaraguan Government, in the interest of continuing the national dialogue, agreed to the participation of political groups that have not yet been legally established. The current participants then proceeded to discuss and approve the proposed regulation presented by the Technical Commission.

3 November, fifth session: The political groups headed by Mario Rappaccioli (Conservatives), Dr Myriam Arguello Morales (Conservatives), Dr Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro (Social Christians), Dr Eduardo Coronado Perez (Liberals), and Dr Andres Zuniga M. (Liberals) joined the sessions. The Social Democratic Party and Constitutionalist Liberal Party also rejoined the group.

These political parties and groups indicated that they had not been present during the discussion of the regulations, which had already been approved. They thus asked that the discussion be reopened. These parties and groups were supported in this request by the Independent Liberal Party, the Communist Party of Nicaragua, and the Social Christian Party, all of which had participated in the discussion.

The discussion and approval of the regulations for the national dialogue required four sessions: 27 October; and 3, 10, and 12 November. The main point of discussion was Article 10, which establishes the manner in which agreements would be reached. All participants present decided that agreements would be reached by consensus. The political parties and groups demanded that the procedure for attaining agreements be set down in the record, while the government repeatedly insisted that the agreement was authoritative in itself.

On 12 November, 1 month after the Technical Commission was appointed, the regulations for the national dialogue were finally signed.

During that seventh session, discussions began on the proposed agenda for the dialogue presented by the Technical Commission. Since there was no consensus on the agenda, a second round of discussions was scheduled.

17 November, eighth session: A second round of discussions on the agenda began. In an effort to reconcile the various proposals, the Nicaraguan Government presented a proposed agenda for national dialogue.

19 November, ninth session: The government, in an additional effort to accelerate the course of national dialogue, presented for the consideration of the political parties and groups a proposal to unify the various points of the agenda. The parties and groups then replied with a counterproposal that could not be accepted. This is because they listed *amending the Constitution of the Republic* [passage published in italics] as their main point of interest.

24 November, 10th session, at which the first agreement of the national dialogue was reached: The political parties and groups accepted the agenda presented by the government. This agenda unified the following various proposed topics:

1. Democratization

1.1 Constitutional amendments proposed by the political parties and groups

1.2 Law on municipalities

a. Nature

b. Composition

c. Faculties and attributions

d. Territorial limits

e. System for electing their members (to be complemented by the Electoral Law)

f. Forms of municipal government

1.3 Electoral Law

a. Municipal elections

b. Elections on the Atlantic coast

c. Powers and attributions

d. Electoral system

e. Conditions for the projection and mobilization of political parties in an electoral campaign

1.4 Political Parties Law

a. Criteria for the formation of political parties

b. Rights of political parties

c. Organization that will regulate political parties: composition and attributions

1.5 The Central American parliament. Electoral system to elect Nicaragua's 20 representatives.

1.6 Date of elections to municipalities and to the Central American parliament

1.7 Mechanisms for the participation of extraparliamentary political parties in the country's institutions

1.8 Preparation and promulgation of laws to implement the Constitution.

As for topics relating to war and peace and the economic crisis, on which there is still no consensus, appoint technical commissions composed of political parties and groups to establish topics of discussion.

26 November, 11th session: Technical commissions were formed to discuss the topics *War and Peace* and *The Economic Crisis*. [passages published in italics]

The political parties and groups presented the government with a list of proposed constitutional amendments, then requested an immediate reply to their proposals. For its part, the government asked for a justification of the proposal. The political parties and groups promised to provide this on 28 November. However, the government did not receive this supporting material until 1 December.

2 December, 12th session: The government reported that, since it had not received the supporting material until 1 December, and considering the seriousness with which those proposals deserved to be considered, it was requesting a 15-day delay before replying.

15 December, 13th session: The government replied to the proposed constitutional amendments by stating that decisions on constitutional amendments come within the purview of the National Assembly, the legislative branch of the Republic of Nicaragua. The government proposed two options:

1. If the participants in the national dialogue agreed, the president of the Republic would submit the proposed constitutional amendments to the board of directors of the National Assembly. This would be with the understanding that it is up to the National Assembly and its 96 representatives to rule on the request presented by the political parties and the groups represented in the national dialogue.

2. The Nicaraguan Constitution, Title 10, Chapter 3, Articles 191-193, establishes the procedure for amending the Constitution. Therefore, the proposals must be presented by the political parties that are represented in the National Assembly for its consideration and discussion, as the Constitution itself states.

In accordance with the dialogue regulations, and no matter which option was chosen, the government proposed to continue discussions on the next topic on the agenda. However, 14 opposition political parties and groups "rejected" the government's proposal. Without taking time to reconsider, they immediately announced their withdrawal [from the dialogues], saying that the government was disrupting the national dialogue and was failing to comply with the Esquipulas II accords.

This situation resulted in the temporary suspension of the national dialogue. We are waiting for the opposition political parties and groups to reply to see if they are willing to proceed with the national reconciliation process.

On this occasion, as well as during the first suspension of the dialogue, the government expresses its willingness to continue discussing important national political issues. It once again reiterates its willingness to proceed with the national dialogue. It also hopes that the opposition political parties and groups reconsider and return to the talks for the sake of peace, harmony, and to make a contribution to achieving unity and reconciliation in Nicaragua and the rest of Central America.

In attaching the necessary documents signed by the delegates of the political parties and groups in the national dialogue, and on the occasion of a new year of struggle for peace, progress, and development for our peoples, I take this opportunity to reiterate to you my highest respect and regards.

Sincerely,

Carlos Nunez Tellez

Presidential representative to the national dialogue

CC: Daniel Ortega, president of the Republic

CC: Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, president of the National Commission

Panama

Noriega on 1989 Elections, Talks With Armitage

PA120244 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] In his statements on the "Domplin's Gunboat" talkshow, on Radio BB, General Manuel Antonio Noriega said that his trip to the Dominican Republic was a private one. He also discussed Richard Armitage and the visit of Robert Pastorino [deputy assistant secretary of defense for inter-American affairs], and stated that this visit differed from what had been reported.

Gen Noriega said there was no pressure of any kind. He added that Armitage and Pastorino were not given enough time to explain the results of the talks back in the United States, and that news media reports had already distorted the discussions.

[Begin recording] [Noriega] It was a scientific, strategic, and a totally high-level conversation, one natural for military men. When I referred to the unfulfilled promise, I am strictly referring to...[changes thought]. The United States had said it would take its fingers out of the Panamanian problem, and that this would be handled internally. [end recording]

Gen Noriega, in his statements on the "Domplin Gunboat" talkshow, also discussed the 1989 elections:

[Begin recording] [Noriega] We must promote the proper climate for these things to take place. However, we are not responsible for that.

Those responsible are: the government, those who know more about these things, and society as well. Therefore, we will make our contribution, whatever contribution we are responsible for. That is why when we spoke with the electoral tribunal officials...[changes thought] The less they involve us in administrative aspects of this electoral situation, the more we will be certain and pleased that there will be no doubt about the honesty of the process. We have even discussed electoral police; that is, electoral police would be under the supervision of the electoral tribunal. They would be doing the things that the National Guard, and then the Panama Defense Forces, had traditionally done. [end recording]

POST Correspondent Denied Entry, Departs

PA112210 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1554 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Panama City, 11 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The correspondent for THE WASHINGTON POST whom Panamanian authorities did not allow to enter the country on Sunday returned to the United States this morning.

U.S. Embassy sources in this capital reported today that Julia Preston, who arrived in Panama on professional business, was placed by Panamanian authorities aboard an Eastern flight which left for Miami at 0800 (1300 GMT).

The sources added that Panamanian authorities did not inform Julia Preston or the U.S. Embassy at any time of the reason she was denied entry to the country.

Julia Preston was detained Sunday at Omar Torrijos International Airport on her arrival from Managua. She was later placed aboard a flight en route to Miami, which had to return to this capital's air terminal because of technical problems. Passengers on that flight, the U.S. Embassy spokesman said, were later transferred to two hotels in the city, but Preston could not be located among them, and it is not known where she spent the night.

The Panamanian authorities did not report the whereabouts of the correspondent and did not allow her to make a telephone call to her newspaper or to the Embassy to advise them what had happened to her or where she was.

A member of the U.S. Embassy managed to see the newswoman last night in the airport before she boarded the first flight en route to the United States—which later had to return—and said that Preston had been treated well up to that moment.

Julia Preston had arrived in Panama to report on the meeting that the "Esquipulas II" International Verification and Follow-Up Commission is holding today with the ad hoc mission touring the Central American countries in fulfillment of the Guatemala agreements.

Panamanian immigration authorities consulted by ACAN-EFE this morning claimed to have no knowledge of the case.

Paredes on Delvalle Statements About Noriega

PA071910 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] Legislator Rigoberto Paredes has referred to the recent statements by Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle in the United States during an interview as follows:

[Begin recording] [Paredes] Let me tell you something. It is important the Panamanian people carefully listen to this: THE WASHINGTON POST, pardon me, THE WASHINGTON TIMES and other U.S. newspapers and media have engaged in manipulating and distorting statements and news reports. Knowing Delvalle, I am sure he did not raise the issue of trying to arrange Noriega's departure because Delvalle knows well that Noriega's standing, that Noriega's position is not at stake in this political crisis, which we are overcoming. In addition, I am sure Delvalle also realizes and knows that any and all [personnel] movements which may have to be made within the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] are carried out in accordance with the legal provisions and FDP regulations.

I don't know, I don't want to think that Tuturo [President Delvalle's nickname] has gone mad—and I am sure he is not mad—because this statement, as presented by THE WASHINGTON TIMES, would seem to have been made by someone who is not sane. For this reason, and knowing that the president is not mad, we must assume this is one more distortion, a new manipulation, one more capricious interpretation by THE WASHINGTON TIMES or the newsman who adopted the decisions.[as heard]

I repeat: Not only the president but all of us at UNADE [National Democratic Union] know that Noriega's standing is not at stake and I think, I repeat, I insist in this regard that this is a manipulation and distortion by THE WASHINGTON TIMES. [end recording]

Cardenas on 'Distorted' Talks

PA080102 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] This afternoon Republican Party Vice President Bernardo Cardenas, current commerce and industries minister, discussed THE WASHINGTON TIMES, which published statements made by Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle regarding an honorable withdrawal for General Noriega. Cardenas said the president's statements were distorted.

[Begin Cardenas recording] The journalist who conducted the interview, at which I was present, misinterpreted Delvalle's words. Delvalle never said that. What President Delvalle tried to say was that all the criticisms are aimed at General Noriega. Delvalle said Noriega was not Panama's problem and that the problem was much more vast and complex.

Delvalle said Noriega was the head of an important institution and both the general and the institution are part of a process leading to the consolidation of a democratic regime, which is what Panama wants. Obviously, when respect for a person's dignity is mentioned, the Republican Party in general disagrees with criticisms and attacks against General Noriega or against any other person if the purpose of the criticism is simply to cause harm to the person or to the country.

President Delvalle—in the interview at which I was present—in no way...[changes thought] Journalist Dorsey made his own interpretation of Delvalle's words. You know it is always easy for the interviewer to give a certain slant to an interview. I respect the journalist's positions but I assure you that at no time President Delvalle said or meant that. I believe journalist Dorsey—who is known to be one of those who have attacked the government of Panama—has changed his tone a bit in these two recent articles. Therefore, I believe he has taken a more favorable stance, trying to balance his criticism. Obviously, according to his own words, he has never seen anyone from the government; therefore his articles reflected the viewpoints and spirit ofl the opposition. [end recording]

Observance of 1964 Zone 'Landmark' Planned

PA071841 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 7 Jan 88 pp 1, 16

[Text] The 9 January 1964 historic landmark will be remembered on Saturday [9 January] with an official program that will include government representatives, students, and organized labor.

The executive branch has issued Decree No 1 of 6 January 1988 commemorating the 9 January 1964 historic landmark.

The official program will start at 0800 with the hoisting of the flag at Plaza Soberania (old Shaler Triangle) by a mother of one of those who fell on 9 January 1964. This will be followed by an outdoor mass.

At 0900, one representative from CONATO [National Council of Organized Workers], the Panama Student Federation, those injured on 9 January 1964, the Defense Forces, and the executive branch will speak.

Following this, there will be 1 minute of silence, then a 21-gun salute by the Defense Forces. This will be followed by an invitation to the public to lay wreaths at the Amador and Jardin de Paz Cemeteries.

The program ends with the national anthem played by the Republican Band.

Defense Forces Deliver Martyrs Day Speech

PA091640 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1423 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Speech by Major Arnulfo Castrejon, representing the Panama Defense Forces, at the 9 January commemoration ceremony at Plaza Soberania in Panama City—live]

[Text] Relatives of 9 January 1964 martyrs, unions, workers, peasants, state ministers, magistrates, legislators, companeros:

The struggle for Panama's sovereignty has been costly in lives and sacrifices. Nothing indicates that the future will be different. On 9 January 1964, we consolidated the path of our patriotic struggle that all Panamanians are willing to follow. During those events, the price of our dignity was 23 lives and more than 500 wounded. This major, the one speaking to you now, was at that time a student at the National Institute. He was also wounded by the aggressive Yankee Army. What the U.S. aggressors did not know and have not understood is that those bullet wounds confirmed our decision to continue our struggle, in any place, at any time, and on the day that we wish. [applause]

If we confronted them as students at that time, we now, as soldiers, can do no less. Aggression has never ceased; it has only changed its tactics and disguised its forms. The same arrogance of 1964 is manifested today in the insolent manner in which they attempt to indicate how we Panamanians must administer our country and determine our destiny. The Panamanians have followed a difficult path, a very difficult one. We cannot display a hint of cowardice or indecision now; on the contrary, on the contrary, gentlemen, because this generation of Panamanians is willing to prevent any attempt to fragment our country's territorial unity. [applause]

Nobody should confuse our desire for peace with weakness. The Defense Forces will assume, with responsibility and professionalism, the defense of the canal in 2000; to be more exact, on 31 December 1999. We will do so together with all good Panamanians, with all unions, laborers, peasants, students, and all those good patriots. The Defense Forces will not hesitate to prevent any attempt to cheat on what has been agreed upon, and they will know how to comply with their obligations as military men and Panamanians.

We are aware that we have internal enemies who have traded the privilege of being Panamanians for the pathetic task of serving their American bosses. These Panamanians betray the martyrs, betray their history, and betray our fatherland. They will never deserve our fatherland. Fortunately for our nation, those traitors are a minority. To demonstrate that fact, we are here—Panamanians, both civilians and military men—united in the willingness to create a fatherland that is totally independent and sovereign. We will show the world that the most powerful country on earth does not scare us, that sacrifice does not frighten us, and that our patriotic struggle makes us stand taller. [applause]

The 9 January martyrs and their relatives can be certain that just as they responded to the country's call, we, the good Panamanians, will also meet our obligations in this historic era when our fatherland calls us. We will never betray our fatherland with indifference or oblivion. When Panama is attacked, Panamanians will never step backward. Today, national unity takes on a vital importance for the future of the country. Our domestic matters are not the concern of any foreign power. We will not [applause] allow a U.S. sector, with a colonialist attitude, to attempt to subjugate us or to make us kneel. Gentlemen, we will never do this! [applause]

The defamation campaign against our country has already been answered by our firm and decisive attitude. There is no better day to reaffirm our loyalty to our fatherland than today, 9 January. After 24 years, we will again swear on the memory of those martyrs who offered their lives that their sacrifice was not in vain. Gentlemen, companeros: the Panama Canal is ours today, tomorrow, and always! Thank you. [applause]

CONATO To March To Defend Benefits 8 Jan

PA072029 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] The National Council of Organized Workers, CONATO, issued a communique stating that once the New Year's celebrations are over, the organized labor force will renew its struggle for the benefit of workers and all Panamanians. The document signed by Jose Manuel Meneses, CONATO's January coordinator, noted that activities will commence on 8 January, with a march which will leave Porras Park at 1600. The document added that workers will defend the benefits they have won and demanded that the 3-in-1 [economic recovery] laws be abolished, economic policy changes be made, basic product prices be frozen, and Ministers Jorge Lee [Labor and Social Welfare] and Ricaurte Vasquez [Planning and Economic Policy] be removed immediately. The document also demanded that education serve the people.

CONATO warned it will maintain a firm attitude regarding the demands it has presented to the Executive Branch and noted it is willing to hold a dialogue to find formulas which will resolve the country's most urgent problems.

Leader Delivers Speech 9 Jan

PA091703 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1338 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Speech by Jose Manuel Meneses, representing CONATO, at the Martyrs Day commemoration ceremony at Plaza Soberania in Panama City on 9 January—live]

[Text] Comrades of the labor movement; representatives of the Defense Forces, the January Martyrs Movement, the church, and the national government; ladies and gentlemen:

Since the ill-fated events of 9 January 1964, which brought pain and mourning to the Panamanian people due to the criminal armed intervention by the Yankee army stationed even until now in our canal area, 24 long years of struggle against the common enemy of the peoples have passed, 24 years during which a large part of our people have continued struggling for the ideals for which Ascanio Arosemena, Jose Del Cid Cobos, Jacinto Palacios Cobos, Victor Iglesias, Victor Garibaldo, Ricardo Villamonte, Celestino Villagreta, Alberto Oyol, Teofilo Belisario de la Torre, Rosa Elena Landecho, Jose Gonzalo Crace, Ezequiel Gonzalez Meneses, Estanislao Orodio, Ovidio Lizaro Saldana, Rodolfo Benitez Sanchez, Jorge Enrique Gil, Martiza La Barca, Luis Vicente Bonilla, Carlos Renato Lara, Alberto Constante, Luis Alberto Chandek, Gustavo Rogelio Lara, and Evelio Lara gave their lives.

Sectors in the United States, at the highest levels, the very highest levels, of the imperialist government, have begun to understand this, but because of their domineering, warmongering, and reactionary mentality, they have found it impossible to admit that times change, that the world is in constant change and movement, and that all the countries in the world have a right to total and complete freedom.

Twenty-four years after the heroic efforts of our 1964 martyrs, the working class represented at this ceremony by the CONATO, offers the martyrs sincere homage for their bravery and exemplary actions, which we should all imitate. We have not come here to cry or express regret. Today, here, we reaffirm our irrevocable decision to continue along the path they opened, no matter how difficult it may be, confronting the external enemy and the many turncoats who are within our own borders, working against our people. They are trying to create the conditions for our country to return to the status it had in 1968, when the United States, through the native oligarchy, directed our Panama's destiny.

At this square, named after the first martyr of the glorious 1964 incidents [as heard], I have come to represent the Panamanian labor movement. I have come to establish our position in response to the current situation, which undoubtedly would be shared by those who gave their lives to see their fatherland free. However, I do not want anyone to be confused. My presence at this ceremony should by no means be taken as support for the executive branch, because I cannot support a government that has not been capable of solving this people's problems, a government whose top leader refuses to talk with the working sector, forgetting that the workers are the ones who produce the goods and create society's wealth. Meanwhile, that government makes concessions to the international financial sectors and to the internal reactionary sectors, adopting an ambivalent position.

Our country is facing a serious political and economic crisis, a crisis that has resulted from the deviation from the Torrijist line and from mistaken economic policies directed and guided by the IMF and the World Bank. This has been done with the consent of those whose duty it is to govern for the Panamanians. This crisis does not come as a surprise. We, the Panamanian workers, have said in the past that the crisis is due to the dependent system we are caught up in. We have in the past also said that we will not overcome the foreign debt problem with one negotiation after another. On the contrary, every renegotiation that is carried out under the present conditions leads us to the precipice. However, for many, this is not important, for they can take the first plane out; they have somewhere to go and the means to live on. We do not have anything. That is why we are struggling and will continue struggling until we find a solution to our problem.

The political crisis I mentioned, one that is supported by the imperialists, was used by oligarchic and pro-imperialist sectors to destabilize the government. They caused serious problems. When I said that the entire maneuver had been orchestrated in the United States, some told me that I was seeing shadows everywhere. I ask now: Why is it that when the pressures exerted by the U.S. Senate—through the resolution in which it openly intervened in our internal affairs—failed, the United States then stated that an understanding had to be reached between the government and the opposition, and the Civic Crusaders were simply quieted? As a prize, they received a pardon so that they can continue the conspiracy. This is while the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] received the harshest punishment, even though they were struggling to make the institution progress. This is nothing but another black age for the United States, the same country whose previous president signed the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Now we have the unilateral Law 96-70, and at the same time, the U.S. officials who have violated the treaties more than 50 times.

U.S. pressure on Panama will continue. The United States will try at all costs to achieve a new military pact that will allow its presence beyond the year 2000, as well as the canal's privatization. As far as we are concerned, the decision has been made to openly struggle against any military pact, and to achieve the nationalization of the canal and its surroundings once it is turned over to Panama. Our country's capability to make progress is great. However, the time that the president and some of his ministers are using to accuse the largest party in its alliance of preventing the government from doing its job, as the media reports, this time should be used—if the government really believes in this—to establish the foundations of plans for the year 2000. This is so we can exploit our greatest source of wealth, the canal.

The national government is faced with two alternatives: to change or to continue improvising. We are nearing 1990, and the Panamanians must begin to prepare the conditions for assuming a majority of seats on the

Panama Canal Commission. This is a very big responsibility, and we must either assume it or hand over the canal to the transnationals, and then be dragged into a deeper crisis.

As for Panama's responsibility in the year 2000, we have learned that the Defense Forces are preparing to play their role despite what the Pentagon may say. We value this highly, for it proves that they wish to defend our national interests. This, however, must be done with firmness and patriotism, and it must be shared with our people.

We have mentioned the Defense Forces and we recall, with indignation, that at this same time last year, we condemned the fact that they were carrying out military maneuvers with the Yankee Army, thus offending the memory of our martyrs. We know of no maneuvers being held at this time, and we applaud this fact. We cannot forget the long chain of criminal and arbitrary actions that the United States has carried out against our country. If we keep in mind the U.S. acts of aggression and the boycott against the Defense Forces and its commander, these maneuvers must then never again take place.

As for the international situation, the organized labor movement strongly condemns the murder of union leaders and civilians in Colombia and El Salvador, especially the latter. Likewise, we condemn the brutal aggression to which the heroic people of Nicaragua are being subjected by the mercenary hordes armed by the White House and the Yankee Congress. We reiterate our support for the peacemaking efforts being made through the Contadora Group, the Esquipulas II agreements, and the summit. These efforts aim at achieving a political and negotiated solution to the Central American problem without undermining the sovereign rights of the people. We have also observed, with optimism, the results of the 8 December summit at which the U.S. and USSR leaders signed an agreement for eliminating short- and medium-range missiles. This has been a very important step toward abolishing nuclear weapons on earth.

Ladies and gentlemen, companeros and companeras, if 1987 was a difficult year, 1988 looks even more difficult. We are not saying this because we are pessimists. We are realists, and we must not allow ourselves to be fooled. If the government continues to follow the path it has been following, if it continues to abide by an economic policy that does not benefit the nation, if the president continues to underestimate the labor movement and the strength of our people, and if measures continue to be adopted without prior consultations, then this year will be one of confrontation.

We will continue to struggle for the repeal of the three-in-one law implemented in March 1986, for a freeze in the prices of basic products, for the Torrijos-Carter Treaties to be implemented on scheduled, for the approval of an administrative career that will benefit the public employee, and for suspension in the payment of the foreign debt. We will also continue to reject any military pact that would allow foreign soldiers on our territory. We will continue to struggle for an effective distribution of the education tax, for a scientific and popular education, for the repeal of Law 8 of 1981, and for a national dialogue that will enable a national development plan to be discussed.

In the face of the serious situation confronting the nation, it becomes necessary to tirelessly struggle to achieve the organization of a common front. This front will gather all the national forces who believe that the process of national liberation and the construction of a worthy society, in which man is not an enemy of man, are historic needs.

Viva the January martyrs! [crowd shouts Viva!]

Viva the people's organizations! [crowd shouts Viva!]

Nationalization of the canal, yes!

Military pact, no!

There is no doubt that they will leave! [applause]

Argentina

Technical Mission From IMF Arrives on Visit

PY080102 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 7 Jan 88 p 5

[Text] (DYN)—A technical mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) arrived in Buenos Aires to set the guidelines for the first quarter of 1988 and to "check up on the figures," as Brian Stewart, head of the delegation said yesterday.

The IMF visit is divided into two phases: first, check if the goals set for the last three months of 1987 between that international organization and the economic team have been met (it is no secret they haven't), and second, establish new targets for this year to be included in the budget draft bill the government will send to Congress.

This last phase is bound to bring about controversy between the representatives of the Economy Ministry and the IMF mission. Sources do not rule out a possible trip of Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea and other high-ranking officers to settle the continuation of the stand-by agreement signed at the beginning of 1987, which has found many obstacles along the way.

Last year, the IMF granted Argentina a 1.35-billion-dollar stand-by loan, plus some 480 million to make up for a drop in the country's exports. However, as the country failed to abide by the commitments made at the beginning of 1987 (basically the reduction of the fiscal deficit), the original agreement was changed in mid-July, and thus the first disbursement, amounting to 1.04 billion dollars of the loan, took place at tha time.

This second agreement also established that the rest of the stand-by loan was to be disbursed in five installments of 210 million dollars each. The first one was to be effective in October, but once again, Argentina did not meet the goals set for the July-August period, and thus the disbursement of the corresponding funds was postponed until December, after the economic team established new goals along with the wage and prize freeze implemented on October 14.

It should also be taken into account that the tax package legislation—which aimed at cutting down the fiscal deficit—has not been passed by Congress yet, thus making it impossible for the economic team to show better records to the IMF "inspectors."

There still is another aspect to look at: the disbursement of loans granted by private creditors is closely tied to the fulfillment of goals agreed on with the IMF.

Alfonsin Signs Decree on Labor Relations Law

PY120138 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2115 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] President Raul Alfonsin today signed a decree promulgating the law on labor-management bargaining boards. Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli made this statement at the end of a meeting he held with Alfonsin at Government House.

Tonelli said that at 2100 on 13 January, he will deliver a speech to be broadcast by radio and television networks to explain the importance of this decision, which, according to the government, means that "labor relations are going through the democratization process."

Tonelli also said that the General Confederation of Labor demand for an increase in the minimum salary is being studied.

Communist Party Calls for National Alliance

PY061239 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1910 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 5 Jan (NA)—The PCA today reaffirmed its decision to continue the struggle to build a "broad alliance for national liberation based on the leftist forces but including sectors of the traditional political parties." The PCA also called for a "thorough" study of the political failures of the party in the 1970's.

Patricio Echegaray, member of the 15-member PCA Political Committee, told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "we are struggling to get Argentina to face the IMF and to find solutions to the overall crisis of society."

The PCA will celebrate its 70th anniversary on 6 January amid a situation of internal conflict created after the changes in the direction [words indistinct] which resulted in a harsh self-criticism of the policies implemented by the PCA in the last 3 decades.

Echegaray said the PCA currently has "80,000 members registered at the Electoral Court," but the party wants to determine the exact number of PCA "militants," which he estimated at "approximately 25,000."

Echegaray said "the unity of the left should involve not only the Marxists, but also the most progressive sectors of the UCR, Peronism, and other popular sectors."

Echegaray also said that "it is necessary to study the defeat of the popular sectors in the 1970's, when the possibility of transformations in Argentina seemed near."

He said that "the three important sectors (Peronist left, the revolutionary left, and ourselves) made mistakes, and in addition, we went ahead divided."

Echegaray reaffirmed the validity of the Broad Front for Liberation (FRAL), an alliance in which the PCA is linked with the Humanist Party, the Popular Democratic Left, and small Peronist groups, saying the FRAL "is the basis for revolutionary action."

Echegaray also admitted the influence of the Soviet policy of "perestroyka" in the PCA. He added that that policy "inspires us," but pointed out that "the party's change of direction has its roots in the past."

The PCA was founded from a splinter group of the Socialist Party, influenced by the new Russian revolution. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Presidential Spokesman Denies Cabinet Shuffle

PY120229 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Chief of the Civilian Household Ronaldo Costa Couto has said that President Sarney is not contemplating a new cabinet shuffle.

[Begin Costa Couto recording] The president has told me that he is not thinking of any cabinet changes at this time. There might be minor administrative adjustments, but not a cabinet reshuffle. [end recording]

Costa Couto said that the president is following the political situation very closely, particularly the work of the Constituent Assembly. According to Costa Couto, Sarney is mainly concerned about administrative matters and the foreign debt renegotiation, which began in New York today. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Meets Guimaraes on IMF Issue

PY120316 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega visited Congress today to discuss with Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Constituent Assembly, the way negotiations between the IMF and Brazil will be handled.

Minister da Nobrega said the government is prepared to sign an agreement with the IMF, but Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes quickly expressed his reservations. Da Nobrega had a short meeting with Guimaraes to discuss the government's new fiscal measures but they did not talk about the foreign debt or tax reform. At the end of the meeting, Da Nobrega said the government will maintain the policy of debt renegotiation begun by his predecessor, Bresser Pereira. He insisted that the government is prepared to conclude an agreement with the IMF.

[Begin Da Nobrega recording] We are prepared to sign an agreement with the IMF, but without establishing a condition on an agreement with creditor banks. We will not agree to a condition for agreements with banks. [end recording]

Regarding the fiscal package, Mailson da Nobrega said he is ready to fully brief Congress on the reasons supporting the measures. Da Nobrega believes that the government fiscal measures are essential to balance the economy. Guimaraes, meanwhile, expects Da Nobrega to fulfill his promise to brief Congress on the matter, not only regarding the fiscal package, but also regarding the foreign debt renegotiations. Even though he did not discuss the issue with Da Nobrega, Guimaraes said he is opposed to an agreement with the IMF. Guimaraes does not think the IMF is fulfilling its role of helping relieve the financial problems of debtor countries.

[Begin Guimaraes recording] The IMF is an organization created to put order into a world economy which at the present time is in total disarray. This proves that the IMF has not attained its goals. Regarding our country, we have suffered the loss of purchasing power of salaries; we had recessions, inflation mixed with recession. These are two problems that become one: stagflation. Without a doubt, the agreements reached by Brazil to solve its foreign debt problem have brought about other problems. We had very bad experiences in these areas. [end recording]

Later in the afternoon, Da Nobrega went to see Senate President Humberto Lucena. This was a courtesy call to strengthen links between the Finance Ministry and Congress. Da Nobrega also intends to visit all other congressional leaders.

Petroleum Council Announces Fuel Price Hikes

PY081428 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] The CNP [National Council for Petroleum] last night announced the first fuel price increase of 1988. As of today, the price of 1 liter of gasoline will be 47.5 cruzados, 1 liter of alcohol 30.9 cruzados, and 1 liter of diesel oil 20.4 cruzados.

The price of natural gas increased to 230 cruzados [no unit specified], while the price of 1 liter of kerosene is now 21.7 cruzados.

The average increase is 16.3 percent. The CNP also authorized a salary increase for (?packers), who will now earn 9,305 cruzados [no time period specified].

Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Companies, Inc] President Mario Behring has said that power rates should be increased by 20 percent in real terms, due to the 100-percent average increase in the consumption

rate. Behring was speaking at the dedication ceremony for a direct current transmission facility at the Ibiuna substation, 50 km from Sao Paulo.

Behring added that Eletrobras profits are well below the level estimated by the recovery plan for the sector, which provided for a 6-percent [words indistinct] but it was possible to reach only 4 percent.

Police To Use Satellite To Detect Marijuana

PY090243 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] The Brasilsat satellite of the National Institute of Space Research, INPE, will be used by the Brazilian Federal Police to detect marijuana and epadu [Brazilian version of the coca plant] plantations. This was reported in Manaus today by Federal Police Director General Romeu Tuma.

He explained that Federal Police experts are learning to identify the data provided by the satellite at INPE.

Chile

Government Protests U.S. Sanctions Before OAS

PY120020 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Chile has accused the U.S. Government of overlooking basic commitments in the relationship between the countries by implementing sanctions on Chilean exports.

These charges are contained in a note written by Foreign Minister Ricardo Garcia that was delivered by the Chilean ambassador to the OAS, Javier Illanes, to the president of the OAS Permanent Council.

The Chilean Government has thus protested before the OAS the U.S. decision to indefinitely remove Chilean exportable goods from its Generalized System of Preferences.

One paragraph of Minister Garcia's note states that the U.S. resolution represents a protectionist measure that affects international trade. In his note, the minister also denies that Chile fails to respect international labor rights. Minister Garcia goes on to note that the reasons given for the measure are unacceptable and recalls that Chile has ratified 40 agreements with the ILO regarding issues of great importance for protection of workers.

Minister Garcia states that Chilean law effectively safeguards each and every one of the workers rights which are recognized at the international level. Among other rights, Chilean law guarantees the right to strike and to have a collective bargaining system.

These are some of the noteworthy paragraphs of the note through which the Chilean Government protested before the OAS the sanctions imposed by the United States.

U.S. Financial Aid to Opposition Reported

PY111451 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] The Committee for Free Elections formed by Christian Democratic leader Sergio Molinas and other personalities and political (?commissions) from various sectors has received $135,000 from a U.S. organization that will give $1 million to the Chilean opposition.

(Carl Gershman), representative of the U.S. National Foundation for Democracy [Fundacion Nacional para la Democracia], who is in Santiago, said the $135,000 contribution will be used to carry out an opinion poll. The donation will also help finance propaganda for the committee headed by Sergio Molinas.

(Gershman) has come here to study the projects that will be carried out with the $1 million in aid approved by the U.S. Congress for the Chilean opposition.

(Gershman) acknowledged, in an interview published by the newspaper EL MERCURIO, that the U.S. organization he heads is providing funds for the Democratic Central Organization of Workers [Central Democratic de Trabajadores] headed by Eduardo Rios and Hernol Flores. He also said he was considering the granting of aid to the National Workers Command headed by Manuel Bustos. It must be recalled that Rios and Bustos are both Christian Democrats. They have slightly different viewpoints, but they have both opposed the government for a long time.

Several Chilean oposition politicians are interested in the offer made by the U.S. citizen in Santiago. They all expect to be included in the list of organizations that will receive U.S. aid to remain afloat.

(Gershman) explained that his organization supports people or groups that have demonstrated a real commitment to democracy. He also asserted that the U.S. organization has no commitments to any specific Chilean groups, strategies, or policies.

However, it must be acknowledged that he is here in Chile to study the plans and the means by which the opposition politicians will spend the $1 million to be given out by the United States.

(Gershman) should also admit that the resolution of the U.S. Congress is illegitimate and condemnable because it seeks to influence the results of the upcoming plebiscite, which concerns only Chileans.

Foreign Minister Receives British Lawmakers

PY050039 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Ricardo Garcia today received British MP's Peter Temple Morris and Sir Hugh Rossi at the Foreign Ministry and discussed the plebiscite and matters related to human rights, a subject that concerns Western Europe.

At the end of the meeting, the British MP's said the foreign minister clearly explained the difficulties the goverment is facing.

Rossi said the current Chilean process has been put on the road toward democracy. He added that he has no doubt the government is making all possible efforts to create a government system that will be recognized by the entire world.

The British MP's arrived last Saturday and they will remain in the country for 1 week. Tomorrow they will meet with Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez. They will also meet the director of the Electoral Court, members of human rights organizations, and representatives of political parties.

Church, Episcopal Conference Answer Fernandez

PY082023 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cardinal Francisco Fresno and his vicars have termed regrettable the comments by Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez, who said the church represents one of the three greatest obstacles to peace in the country.

Fresno's statement is contained in a church communique that also expresses disapproval of the manner in which a group of lay people are voicing concerns about the church. This communique was released today at noon after a meeting of vicars in the Santiago Archdiocese [passage omitted].

Episcopal Conference Statement

PY120144 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] The Chilean Episcopal Conference has released a statement regarding comments by Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez about the Vicariate of Solidarity.

The statement, which was signed by Msgr Carlos Gonzalez, the Episcopal Conference president, and Msgr Sergio Contreras says that the church committee does not want to engage in polemics with the interior minister.

It should be remembered that Minister Fernandez, using as a basis a publication by Ignacio Gutierrez, former member of the Vicariate of Solidarity who now lives in Spain, said the Vicariate of Solidarity is really a counterintelligence organization at the service of the opposition and that its political goal is to overthrow the government of President Pinochet and provide terrorism with the moral and logistical protection it requires.

In this regard the Episcopal Conference said that the Santiago Archbishopric already publicly disqualified Gutierrez' book.

Colombia

Change in U.S. Attitude, Measures Sought

PA110420 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Report by J M Alarcon]

[Text] Today the Colombian Government requested that the U.S. Government modify its attitude and the measures it has taken recently against Colombian citizens, airplanes, and export products.

The request was made today by Foreign Affairs Minister Julio Londono when he disclosed that the Colombian Government has not yet received a reply to its protest note.

[Begin Londono recording] The important thing is for the United States to modify an attitude that contradicts the law and all the principles of Americanism that prevail on the continent.

I therefore believe that the United States should modify the steps it has taken against Colombian nationals, merchandise, ships, and airplanes. [end recording]

Today it was learned that during 1987 the Colombian Government, in its struggle against drug trafficking, confiscated 6,752 kg of cocaine and 2.682 million kg of marijuana, and destroyed 4.5 million coca plants and 2.850 million marijuana plants.

During 1987 the authorities managed to destroy 1,352 laboratories and confiscated or seized 162 vehicles, 38 vessels, 16 airplanes, and 25 clandestine airstrips.

In the struggle against drug trafficking, Colombia has, to date, captured 23,325 drug traffickers. In addition, 123 policemen, 15 NCO's, and 9 officers have died fighting drug trafficking, and 438 troops have been injured.

Since 1984, the Colombian Government agreed to 18 extraditions of Colombian citizens to the United States, 13 of whom have already been turned over and are serving time for crimes connected with drug trafficking. It was learned that up to the end of 1987, authorities confiscated $1.5 billion—about 375 billion pesos—from drug traffickers.

Alleged Attack on Ochoa Judge Investigated
PA112100 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Judicial authorities are investigating accounts on an attack against 71st Criminal Court Judge Andres Enrique Montanez, who freed Jose Luis Ochoa.

Montanez, whose bodyguards had been withdrawn Friday, said that the attempt to kill him occurred when he was returning home at dawn on Saturday.

Revelations on Drug Bribe Payments Disclosed
PA112310 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] A document disclosed by the "Noticiero 24 Horas" newscast and the daily newspaper EL ESPECTADOR tells of various lawyers, public officials, and even a senator having received money from drug traffickers in exchange for favors in the legal proceedings against Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez and other members of the so-called Medellin cartel.

The newscast "24 Horas" and EL ESPECTADOR disclosed that a few days ago, the 4th Brigade headquarters based in Medellin sent the minister of national defense an official reply detailing the results of a 7 February 1987 raid at Carrera 82 No 14 South 84 in that city. During the operation, Mauricio Isaza Ochoa, who had no identification, was detained, and a large arms cache and six luxury cars—three of them owned by Isaza—were confiscated. Several documents were also found, one of which is considered revealing, which is the reason it was sent to Army headquarters. The document lists money distributed to several lawyers and other anonymous public officials, allegedly in payment for work and collaboration in penal proceedings.

Among the sums listed are: 10 million [currency not specified]—5 million to Justice Ministry collaborators and 5 million to Foreign Affairs Ministry collaborators; 10 million to Senator Bula Hoyos; 1 million to Dr Esteban Bendeck for collaboration; 500,000 to military informers; 25 million to Dr Luis Carlos Perez, Luis Eduardo Mesa Velasquez, and Servio Tulio Ruiz; and 10 million to Dr Jose Joaquin Caicedo Perdomo, who was, in December, offered Luis Ochoa Vasquez' defense, an offer he refused:

[Begin recording] I did not agree to represent Mr Ochoa and I did not take part in drafting the appeals that were presented before the justice minister, nor did I assist in the procedures used to obtain this man's release. If one does not agree to defend him, then the financial part is explained the same way. [end recording]

The document also mentions the payment of 6.3 million pesos to someone called Garcez, who was in charge of paying the fees. The contents of these documents were not forged, because they were disclosed through official document No 35945 to the Army Command the same week.

Ecuador

President Denies bribing Election Candidate
PA110006 Paris AFP in Spanish 1721 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Quito, 10 Jan (AFP)—In statements made before a group of reporters yesterday in Guayaquil, Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero denied having offered money to 1 of the 10 presidential candidates running in the 31 January elections.

Vice presidential candidate Pedro Jose Arteta on Friday said that some government messengers had offered presidential candidate Carlos Julio Emanuel much money in exchange for his withdrawal from the presidential race.

Until recently, Carlos Julio Emanuel was the manager of the Central Bank.

Two opposition presidential candidates had previously said that Emanuel would withdraw from the race in order to favor the ruling party's candidate, Sixto Duran Ballen. However, Emanuel denied this statement.

Arteta also said that an attempt had been made to blackmail him. He said that the Ecuadoran Social Security Institute (IESS) had charged him with "fraud." Arteta said that the IESS claims that he has not made the social security payments for the workers at one of his enterprises since March 1980.

Only 21 days remain before the elections; campaigning in Ecuador had been characterized by respect, and this has been the most talked about incident in the struggle for power.

Briefs

Growth, Debt Figures Reported

It was reported that in 1987 the Ecuadoran foreign debt totaled more than $9.4 billion, which exceeds by 19.6 percent the 1987 Ecuadoran gross national product. In 1987 the net payment of the foreign debt totaled $1.2 billion, while the gross national product fell by 3.5 percent. This is the first time the overall amount of the foreign debt exceeded an entire year's production. [Summary] *[Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 3 Jan 88 PA]*

Uranium, Vanadium Discovery

The Ecuadoran Atomic Energy Commission has claimed it discovered an area rich in uranium and vanadium in southern Ecuador, near the Peruvian border. Geological and radiometric tests by the commission confirmed the presence of these radioactive elements in Puyango, about 500 km south of Quito. The commission identified three layers of high uranium content; the middle layer shows the highest concentration. [Excerpt] *[Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 26 Dec 87 PA]*

Paraguay

Further Comment on U.S. Envoy's Interview

PY111617 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 10 Jan 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Setting an Ambassador Straight, Part II"; quotation marks as published]

[Text] Going back to the interview with the U.S. ambassador to Paraguay published by ULTIMA HORA, we recall the first question: "Could you describe the relations between the United States and Paraguay from your point of view? The ambassador's reply was as follows: "They are not as good as they could be with a government that receives broad support from our Congress and people. But they are not as bad as they could be with countries whose governments and social systems are totally incompatible with ours. I would describe our relations as normal, but with slumps.

This reply reveals some contradictions that should be pointed out but not explained, because it would be a titan's task. For example, the Soviet Union and the PRC have "governments" and "social systems" absolutely incompatible with those of the United States. Therefore, relations with those countries should be "bad," and the U.S. Congress should reject them and enact strict laws against their social systems and governments. But it so happens the U.S. Congress has not proclaimed any such laws. Neither has the U.S. Congress "deplored," as it usually does in questionable cases, the fact that the United States and its allies—Canada, Australia, Argentina, and France—continue to cover the grain shortages of the Soviet giant, freeings its hands from food policy worries and letting it concentrate on its war industry, where it is making greater progress than the United States. Likewise, we have never read anything about the attitude of the U.S. Congress toward a "bad" country—Red China, which is "incompatible" with the United States—that happens to be receiving large-scale technical assistance from the United States at this time, a country where the massive U.S. presence is marked by Coca-Cola as a drink for the Chinese and by blue jeans and miniskirts as clothing for the Chinese boys and girls.

A painful conclusion is reached through these observations: The U.S. Congress is not the universal temple of absolute truth, nor are its decisions dictated by political morals. Its standards seem to be based on physical size, tolerating the "bad" country that is powerful and punishing the "bad" country that is weak. At this point, we could take heart from the ambassador's statement that our form of government and social system are "not so bad," but we cannot take heart from such a whimsical characterization. But after all we do not need to take heart from anything except increased respect and justice for our country.

In our republican language, we usually use the word "imperialism" to refer to Soviet imperialism, which equally threatens the United States and Paraguay. We used to find references to "Yankee imperialism" only in pro-terrorist and pro-communist manifestos. Our somewhat lyrical characterization of the United States is the "Great Nation to the North" or "Leader Nation of the Free World," specifically in military terms. But even in these terms, we accept such leadership as that of the stronger ally, not of the most severe master.

From this standpoint, we find it impossible to understand the position that our country's good relations with the United States depend on "broad support from Congress" (that of the United States, of course) for our government.

As far as we know, President Stroessner is not the one who should worry about "broad support" from the U.S. Congress, but rather President Ronald Reagan or whoever succeeds him. It is not up to us to analyze whether President Reagan commands broad support from his country's Congress. We can affirm, however, that President Stroessner commands broad support from his country's Congress, and, if repeating it is necessary, from his country's people. This is the foundation of an ethical principle of equality that good diplomacy must not overlook.

Moreover, if the ambassador believes the U.S. Congress should stand as a high international tribunal, he is wrong—at least as far as Paraguay is concerned. We accept no jurisdiction other than that established in our national Constitution for the three branches of the state. When we adhered to international conventions, we did not do so at the cost of our sovereignty and independence. We did so in the spirit of equality. If these conventions entail commitments and obligations, our compliance with them can only be judged by our nation's morals and our status as a free country.